

unpatentable over Hadley, U.S. Patent No. 4,949,652 in view of Kent, U.S. Patent No. 4,922,841. In accordance with the restriction requirement of the Examiner, Claims 1-14 and 22-25, Category I, are elected for prosecution. Claims 15-21, Category II, drawn to a process for incinerating waste material and Claim 26, Category III, drawn to a waste transport apparatus, are withdrawn from consideration and are maintained pending, subject to the filing of a divisional application.

The independent Claims 1 and 22 have been amended to more particularly emphasize the novel feature of Applicants' invention. Claim 1 has been amended to add a limitation requiring "an injector for blowing air into said first combustion chamber in excess of the amount required for normal combustion" and "a damper for restricting air flow into said second combustion chamber to an amount less than that required for normal combustion." Claim 22 has been amended to include a limitation requiring "means for blowing air into said first combustion means in an amount greater than that required for normal combustion" and "means for controlling air flowing into said second combustion means to an amount less than that required for normal combustion." Dependent Claim 2 has been amended to describe an additional feature associated with the injector of Claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection in view of the amendments to claims and the argument that follows.

An important feature of Applicants' invention is that the first and second combustion chambers are placed in reverse order to that of conventional incineration processes. In a conventional incineration process, the first combustion chamber incinerates the waste material in an oxygen starved atmosphere and then the partially incinerated material is burned in a second chamber that is an oxygen enriched atmosphere. Applicants' have reversed this approach and burn the waste material in a first chamber in the presence of an oxygen rich atmosphere and then the incinerated material is burned a second time in a second chamber that is oxygen starved. By amendment of the claims, these features of Applicants' invention are emphasized by requiring an injector for blowing air into the first combustion chamber in an

amount that is greater than required for normal combustion and a damper to restrict air flow in the second combustion chamber to an amount less than would be required for normal combustion, thus creating an oxygen starved atmosphere. The injector is shown in Figures 4A and 4B and described in the accompanying text. The damper is shown in Figure 6 and described in the accompanying text. Other aspects of the unique injector system of the current application is further described and claimed in dependent Claim 2.

Similarly, in Claim 22, two structural limitations have been added that positively recite means for blowing air into the first combustion means and means for controlling air flowing into said second combustion means.

In neither of the references cited by the Examiner is there disclosed or even suggested any structure equivalent in function or purpose to the injector and damper described and claimed by Applicants. In fact, the prior art relied upon by the Examiner describes conventional waste incinerating systems that use a conventional two-step process requiring an oxygen starved atmosphere in the first chamber and an oxygen enriched atmosphere in the second chamber. Thus, the claims as amended, patentably distinguished over the prior art relied upon by the Examiner.

The amendment to the claims is now hoped to alleviate the concerns evidenced in the rejection. The claims now having been amended to overcome the Examiner's rejection, an early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited. In the event the Examiner has any questions, it is requested that he contact the attorney listed below by telephone.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker & Botts.

Respectfully submitted,
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